



THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



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August 2020 Issue

Here's to Plants and Community!

BY ANNA KLEIN

I love plants. They help me to remember that I'm a part of something bigger. I'm a human (animal) inside a web of interconnected relationships with all amazing living beings on Earth. Some little moments in my childhood—a strawberry field with gobs of sun-warmed, super-sweet red berries to eat on the way home; the wild, exploding seeds of jewelweed; a Venus fly trap snapping an insect. It's magic!

This year the whole world really slowed down for a while, and we were all in this together, swallowed up in a dark cloud of fear, confusion and stress. I found myself pacing the living room, trying to find something useful to do with myself. I had my worries about "The End of the World as we Know It," and we began prepping as best we could for a potential disruption in our money and food supply. This was the year to finally get those sheep we'd been talking about, and meat chickens, and expand the veggie garden. After the initial chaos calmed a bit, I felt intensely how lucky and privileged I am. So many people had it far, far worse. Unemployment, money worries, food insecurity, domestic abuse—all over the world, and even in Guilford.

Our capitalist society sees competition as virtuous. We are competing all our lives—for grades in school, for college admission, for jobs, for success, for food and other basic needs. Some people say that competition makes us stronger, but competition is survival of the fittest. If there's a winner, there must also be a loser.

Early this winter I read a book by Tom Wessels, "The Myth of Progress: Toward



*Anna Klein is surrounded by plants
at Comfrey Commons Nursery*

a Sustainable Future." It connects economics and ecology in a pretty neat way. My big takeaway was that humans, just like all the other living beings in our ecosystem, thrive when we cooperate and share with one another. Fighting, competition, war—that weakens both sides, even the winner. Whereas mutuality, finding and nurturing compassionate, sharing relationships—that has the power to strengthen us.

In mid-March, I began to see some awesome mutual-support efforts popping up all over town, in addition to the great volunteer work that so many Guilfordites already do here in "normal" times. I heard about people making check-in phone calls

and running errands for older community members and friends, the Guilford Cares food pantry adapting its operations to curbside pickup, Hanna at Tapalou Guilds restarting a local food-buying club, the Guilford library going online with its weekly children's storytime, school bus drivers delivering lunches to kids learning at home, and neighbors sharing food and other resources with each other. Here it was, right in our little town, so much evidence of that mutual support that we need to survive and thrive as a community, and as individuals!

Now to circle back around to plants. We have incredible mutually beneficial relationships with plants. Sure, we kill them, but we also propagate and cultivate them. We create flower gardens for our own enjoyment, and to attract wildlife. Plants give us our clothing, housing, food, medicines—our basic needs. And, this year, when the slow, cool springtime finally emerged into bright, warm sunshine, the plants were here to help us cope and reconnect. Many of us found great comfort with plants then—in the forest, in our gardens, in our homes.

So, my small gesture to our community this year is to share plants. I'd been thinking of starting a plant nursery for many years, but this was the right time. In the spring, so many people around town were sharing plants from their gardens, extra veggie starts, seeds—what a beautiful thing to be encouraged! We opened Comfrey Commons, a pay-what-you-want nursery, in early June—and immediately community members

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The Guilford Gazette

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The *Guilford Gazette* was established in 1995 and was published by students at Guilford Central School, with support from the Town of Guilford, and is now published under the auspices of the Guilford Free Library. We publish four issues per year: November, February, May and August.

The *Guilford Gazette* is happy to print photos and articles submitted by the public. Please be aware that *the Gazette staff cannot be responsible for photographs and names printed without the permission of participants*. It is the responsibility of the writers and photographers to make sure they have permission to print.

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The Guilford Gazette is an all-volunteer newspaper that comes out four times a year. That's a big commitment for the four or five regulars on the staff, who take care of editing, production, advertising, printing and mailing it to every Guilford household. Here's how you can help:

- **Prepare the printed newspaper for mailing** by helping us with labels. If enough people show up, this only takes a few hours and it's a chance to socialize and get a sneak preview of the paper! Contact Cathi Wilken at the library [257-4603] to find out how you can help.

- **Send in articles.** This is a chance to let us know what your group, organization or business is doing in Guilford! Or perhaps you'd like to share a reminiscence, poem, or story with your fellow Guilfordites. Just limit your entry to no more than 600 words if you are sending a photograph with your article, or 650 words without a photograph. You can submit articles to the Gazette by email to gazette@guilfordfree.org, or you can send a printed copy to Susan Bonthron (108 S. Belden Hill Rd., Guilford, VT 05301), or Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library (4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301). Please DO pay attention to deadlines!

- **Join our staff.** If you have an interest in becoming a staff member who can help with editing, advertising or production, we'd love you to join us at our "second Thursday of the month" meetings at 9AM at the Guilford Country Store. Meetings start on time and last no more than one hour.

- **Donate.** The Gazette always welcomes donations of any size. They help pay for postage and printing. Checks made out to The Guilford Gazette should be sent to Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Road, Guilford, 05301.

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Danger, No Entry!

BY CAROL STACK

for THE GUILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“Danger” the sign says, “no unauthorized personnel.” Yes, that is correct. Part of our Meeting House ceiling has fallen down. It has deteriorated rapidly in the last six months and apparently more so since everything closed down during this historic global pandemic.

We started last year working with the Preservation Trust of Vermont for evaluation and recommendations of anticipated repairs inside and out of the Meeting House.

On June 20th, the Board of the Guilford Historical Society re-started where we left off with the replacement of the bell rope. That rope had broken last year when we came and tried to ring the bell. The rope came crashing down onto the floor in the vestibule. It was a big sur-

prise for all. The ringing of our bell was to be part of a grand Memorial Day celebration. Things may happen for a reason, we thought. How awful it would have been had it happened when the kids rang the bell as part of our program.

And perhaps a large piece of plaster might have fallen off the ceiling (see pictures) during part of the sixth grade graduation ceremony, which was planned for early June in the Meeting House.

The pandemic arrived in March, and town buildings were closed. Though the State has now allowed for the reopening of some businesses and gathering places, we wanted to take up where we had left off in our preserving our Meeting House anyway, and start working in the Museum; As a result, these buildings will remain closed

until further work and repairs are complete.

The Society is applying for grants to cover some of the costs of repairing the Meeting House. If our community wants to preserve this landmark treasure, we will need your support in time, effort, and yes, money to reach our goal.

Please consider joining the Guilford Historical Society, becoming a member “at large,” or volunteering your time for projects we need help with. Consider becoming a board member. It is interesting, educational, and eye opening to see and know more about Guilford’s history. We have fun and need more interesting and interested people to work with. Please contact us at: guilfordvthistory@gmail.com.



The Meeting House ceiling in need of repair



A piece of the Meeting House ceiling has fallen.jpeg

Here's to Plants, continued

generously offered plastic pots, plants, labor, and cash, and they got some plants and lively conversation in return. In the future, we plan to expand our perennial

edibles and medicinals—plants that empower us to feed and heal ourselves. But we'll still have some flowers, because our hearts—and the butterflies—need those,

too. *The Comfrey Commons nursery is open Saturdays through September - see comfreycommons.com for more information, including a list of available plants.*

Gaines Farm Looks Forward with Hope

BY LINDA HAY

Will there be a corn maze this fall? The corn is planted on the Gaines Farm on Route 5. The wider corn maze community is working on ideas (on line) to make it possible for families to still enjoy trips to a corn maze in spite of Covid 19. Speak with Jackie Gaines about it and you can hear in her voice that for her it is more than just a part of the complex transition away from dairying. It is also a chance to share the family's love of what Madison Avenue might call "the farm experience" with folks for whom it is a mystery.

A city child can look blankly at a whole field of corn and have no idea what the plants have to do with corn on the cob or corn chips. Then, if they are lucky, they meet up with a farmer who strips back the husks from an ear of corn for an "ah ha!" moment for the child.

Read the comments from happy visitors on the farm's web site and you will see why so many return year after year. So Jackie and her extended family are waiting to see what things will be like come fall. If this seemingly healthy outdoor experience is allowed, it is still important to them that it be done safely. Will they take reservations to space out the visitors and keep the public safe? Will the hay ride to feed the cows be impossible with social distancing? At least picking pumpkins appears safe—or is it? So, as fall draws near, check their website to

see what they have figured out.

Meanwhile the quarantine has not brought life on the 200-year-old family farm to a stop. In early July there is a new litter of nine golden puppies, two of whom are tiny and in need of special care, meaning nights of broken sleep. The beef cattle, which replaced the milkers, have had 18 calves in the past three weeks. Hay has to be cut. The 20 acres of winter squash are slowly being covered with a tangle of vines. Chickens are still laying eggs. Son Kyle is trying new things, like planting rhubarb. A bobcat has been seen. Mama goat has two frisky kids.

Speaking of goats, with a bit of extra time at home and some goat's milk, Jackie has tried cheese making with delicious results. Cranberries, blueberries, and walnuts have been some of the flavoring ingredients she has tried. She speaks of her gratitude for this "pause" which is allowing her to see



The Gaines Farm Corn Maze

more clearly all the ways the farm feeds and can continue to feed three generations of the family, and the wider community. She does ruefully reflect on all the cows milk from so many years that she had never tried making cheese from. But with grandchildren to nurture and puppies to raise, a boarding kennel to run, and the myriad tasks life on a farm presents, it is hardly any wonder that life seems blessed in spite of "it all."



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COVID-19: A Farmer's Perspective

BY JONAH MOSSBERG, MILKWEED FARM

In some ways, life on the farm has been much the same under the pandemic. The first week of March, I sowed our beloved greenhouse tomato seeds and fired up the wood heated seedling house as usual. COVID was still a mumbling that was afflicting people in China and Europe.

Salad greens, carrots, and radishes were planted in our unheated high tunnel. As soon as the snow melted, the plastic went back onto our three season tunnels and those were filled with the optimism that only seeds can have. The work of the vegetable farmer had begun. Calluses re-emerged and to-do lists grew ever longer.

By mid-March, the realities of local life under a global pandemic became more apparent. What would this mean for my livelihood, my soon to be expanding family, and community? I scrambled to aggregate all of the necessary materials for the season for fear of not being able to source them. Seed companies that small and medium scale farmers depend on, including Johnny's and Fedco were totally slammed as the demand for seeds soared, in part due to the rise in home gardening. Vegetable varieties that I have been growing for years and have come to depend on were in some cases sold out, or severely delayed in their shipment. Some seed companies eventually had to close sales to home gardeners so that commercial growers could obtain needed seed stock for the upcoming season.

As soon as the stay-at-home order was put into place at the end of March, the demand for local food grew. It seemed like almost overnight I sold nearly every single viable onion, head of garlic and root

vegetable that had been patiently waiting in storage all winter, thanks to local food distribution networks/sites such as the Putney Coop, the Food Connects Food Hub, Wild Carrot Farm's farm store curbside pickup, and Guilford's own buying club at Tapalou Guilds. E-mails came rolling in from neighbors and others who wanted to pur-



chase food directly from the farm in order to skirt busy grocery stores and avoid long and winding global food supply chains. I have never felt so essential!

Perhaps the largest impact that the virus has had on Milkweed Farm is the method through which we currently get our product to eaters. Vending at farmers markets and selling food to restaurants have been cornerstones of the farm's business since I started. The pandemic forced me to quickly re-evaluate the most viable, safe, and profitable options for food distribution. As all restaurants were closed for an undetermined amount of time, and the farmer's market opening was totally unclear, I pivoted quickly to offering a full season vegetable CSA rather than gamble that

restaurants and markets would open and be successful under the pandemic. Most of our CSA members are Guilford residents and many are direct neighbors of the farm.

Shifting from a market farm to a CSA model has come with its set of growing pains and challenges. During January, I typically spend a few weeks carefully planning the fields in accordance with intended sales and production. The process is somewhat painstaking and time consuming. Generally we grow around 15 different crops and try to grow them really well. As we shifted to a CSA model, I began to incorporate things I haven't grown in quantity for years—like broccoli raab, kohlrabi, potatoes and green beans—in order to offer a wider diversity of food to our CSA members.

As I write this missive we are a quarter of the way through our 20 week CSA, and we could not be happier with how the season is going. Switching to a CSA model has been a win-win. Our members get a locally grown box of food each week with a no-contact pickup, and their support has allowed us to stay on the farm much more than we are used to (no schlepping to/from and standing around at farmers market), and we have been able to replace what would have been lost income from the absence of restaurant sales and potentially lower than normal sales at farmers markets and then some. We are so grateful to our CSA members and business partners across the local community who have allowed Milkweed Farm to survive and thrive the COVID-19 pandemic.



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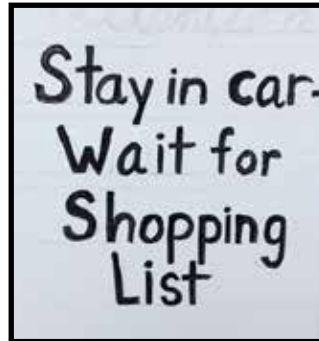
Broad Brook Community Center and You

BY JAIME DURHAM

We miss you at the Broad Brook Community Center! With all of the changes the past few months have brought, one of the things we lament is the cancellation of the spring activities on the calendar. Brunches, Tai Chi, and dances; a book swap, a play, and a film showing—we had some wonderful events lined up that have had to be put on hold until we can gather safely again in-person. We can't wait!

In the meantime, even though the building is closed to all non-essential activities, the BBCC is still serving as an important community hub. The Guilford Food Pantry continues to operate, with heightened safety measures for the sake of public health, delivering food curbside to families in need every Thursday from 5-6pm. Also, in service to everybody in the town, we have unlocked our WIFI network. Please feel free to take advantage of our broadband from the parking lot! We are committed to lending as much help as we can to the people of

Guilford, so if there is a role you think we can play under the current restraints, please let us know by emailing broadbrookc@guilfordvt.org.



The Food Pantry has adopted new procedures during the pandemic.

We are still moving forward with construction plans, but with a project this size, and now with COVID-19, we hope you understand that we have had to adjust our original timeline. We are working diligently with our excellent local team of Mathes Hulme Builders, Helm Construction

Services, Jon Saccoccio Architectural Workshop, and Stevens & Associates to move forward with the Phase 2 renovations, and we are in the final stages of our Act 250 permitting process. We will let you know any updates.

We still need your help to raise all the funds for Phase 2. Please be assured that every dollar you donate goes directly toward renovating the building to serve this community. If you can help, please consider making a donation or pledge by going to broadbrookcommunitycenter.org/donate. One of the things we are proudest of in planning the renovation of the hall is our focus on working with Guilford businesses. We expect Phase 2 to help the local economy by providing work to local builders and tradespeople many of whom are Guilford residents and neighbors.

We appreciate your support, and very much look forward to the day we can gather with you again at the Center in goodwill and in good health!

Scholarships Awarded to Guilford Students

BY DON MCLEAN

Three high school graduates from Guilford have been awarded scholarships to continue their education. The awards were made by three different organizations in town.

The Town of Guilford's Bullock Scholarship Fund made two awards this year. Recipient Juniper DiMatteo-LePape will be attending the University of Denver. The other award goes to Elias

Zumbruski, who will be attending Vermont Technical College for the Mechanical Engineering Program.

DiMatteo-LePape also received one of the two scholarships awarded by the Guilford Recreation Club.

Although traditionally all of these scholarships are for those attending college in the fall, during this unusual year, many students are taking a "gap year" or

following other plans, rather than going directly on to college. Such is the case with Gus Williams, who was the other recipient of a Recreation Club award. He will be attending a post-graduate year at the Northfield Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts.

Williams was also awarded this year's scholarship by Broad Brook Grange.



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How is your Internet Connection?

BY ZON EASTES

According to a study published early in the spring under the auspices of the Windham Regional Commission, there exists in Guilford an impressive array of internet connection strengths, types, reliabilities, and costs. The study also reveals a disturbing lack of equity for access across Guilford.

For about six years, various stalwart Guilford citizens have researched and advocated for more stable broadband access. The work has been described as slow and frustrating, primarily because corporate broadband providers have little incentive to provide service in Vermont's low-population areas, including in Guilford. All across Vermont, it has become clear that individual towns, or even subsections within towns, cannot struggle effectively against the competitive disinterest of large providers.

But, things may be changing. Citizen action and advocacy has led to changes of attitude about the importance of statewide broadband access. In 2019, Governor Scott signed legislation that allows two or more towns to join together in a Communications Union District (CUD) to develop broadband access for all. Planning, policy, and opportunity seem to be coalescing now—and the COVID-19 pandemic adds its own urgency and potential funding—around the development of affordable, consistent connectivity.

What is a Communication Union District (CUD)? In Vermont, a CUD is a state-recognized entity established to focus solely on the provision of high-speed broadband access for all. Each CUD is authorized to conduct and oversee all the business necessary to fulfill its mission,

including strategic finances, planning, construction, management, customer service, and negotiations to contract for all services to that end.

This 2019 law permits the use of municipal "revenue bonds" to build a broadband network to serve member towns. However, the law guarantees that the member towns' taxpayers will not be liable for the repayment of any CUD indebtedness. Repayment is made by adding a fixed user fee to the subscriber's broadband monthly fee.

In January, just after the law was signed, the Windham Regional Commission announced two meetings to explore the pros and cons of creating of a CUD for this part of the state. Guilford attended the first meeting (the second was cancelled due to snow.) For its part, WRC committed to two actions: 1) to oversee a broadband development feasibility study (a survey used for this study received input from over 200 Guilford residences) and 2) to facilitate the development of a business plan to create a CUD.

Per the new law, a CUD can be created when two towns win approval to join via town-wide vote. (It's the town-wide vote that is key.) In March town meetings, an article to join and form a CUD was passed in Halifax, Marlboro, Stratton, Whitingham, and Wilmington. The Deerfield Valley Communications District (DVCUD) was thus established. By law, following the successful formation of any CUD, other towns are eligible to join by simple vote of the selectboard. To date, eight more towns, including Guilford, have joined. The DVCUD currently includes Brattleboro, Dover, Guilford, Halifax, Jamaica,

Marlboro, Readsboro, Stamford, Stratton, Wardsboro, Whitingham, Wilmington, and Windham.

The Guilford selectboard voted unanimously to join this nascent Deerfield Valley Communications Union District in May (you can learn more at dvfiber.org). I have been appointed as Representative for Guilford to the DVCUD governing board, and Selectboard Member Michael Becker will serve as Alternate. The governing board meets monthly (committees and leadership more often), and has made strong progress in just three meetings. A short list of actions to date includes:

- * Organizational structure set up, including standing committees
- * Weekly meetings with WRC, as part of regional broadband plan development
- * Interviews conducted with eight current broadband providers in the region
- * DVCUD website created (dvfiber.org)
- * Loan programs from lending agencies explored

Additionally, the DVCUD is in close connection with both federal and state legislators about the importance of equitable broadband development as well as the need for workable, funding sources.

If you have questions or concerns about Guilford's participation in the Deerfield Valley Communications District, please contact Zon Eastes at zoneastes@guilfordvt.net, or at 802.380.9550. I'm learning as we go, and I'm happy to talk with interested folks along the way.

Zon Eastes is a member of the Guilford selectboard.

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One of Guilford's Hidden Gems—The Guilford Recreation Club

BY ELLY MAJONEN AND CAROL SCHNABEL

After several years of inactivity, the Guilford Recreation Club is up and running. A board of trustees was formed in 2018, comprised of both new members and others who had previously served. The trustees hope to re-invigorate the club, make sure that its assets are well-maintained, improve the physical facilities, and encourage more use of them.

The Guilford Recreation Club began in 1949 in order to provide recreational programs and facilities for the children and adults in Guilford. It owns and maintains land adjacent to the Guilford Fairgrounds. According to *The Official History of Guilford*, the Guilford Recreation Club all started...

"... in the late spring of 1949 (when) a few boys were playing an after-supper ball game (and) one was hit in the eye by a baseball. The injury was quite severe and trips to Boston for treatment costly. A benefit ball game was played and helped defray some of the expense. This game was the germ for Whittemore Park with Bill Searles and Leon Ogden prime movers for a Recreation Club."

In August of that same year, ..."an organizational meeting of the Guilford Recreation Club was held... twenty eight people present.... Bert Whittemore... offered to deed the club, about 15 acres of land containing a maple grove for a picnic area and an alder swamp for

a baseball field. ...Joe Borkowski... donated a strategic quarter acre or so needed for the infield."

About 200 men actually worked on the project with as many as fifty being on the job at one time. Donations of about \$700 were received from those who could not contribute labor. The swamp needed filling, 300 cubic yards being used. Then bothersome ledge cropped up in the outfield. It was drilled and \$25 worth of dynamite flattened that obstacle. Draining was still needed, the ball field required blasting 700 feet of ditch. Then came the grading. ... The town bulldozer then went into action and the club had its ball park – in the rough at least, for a cash outlay of \$312.24."

In 1950, the first baseball team was organized and games played. Donated lumber was turned into picnic tables and fireplaces were built. In 1951, dam work began,



The Log Cabin

which created the community swimming pool. Fundraisers included dances at the Grange and a benefit concert by pianist and Guilford resident Rudolf Serkin.

What a community effort and a wonderful place for the Guilford Community to enjoy!

Today the Guilford Recreation Club owns and is responsible for the baseball field, a tennis/basketball court, a rustic log cabin (available for public use), a picnic pavilion, and a nature trail. It is also the site for annual local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts events. The Scouts and their leaders have been essential to the maintenance of the cabin & trails.

The Board of Trustees is currently evaluating all of these assets. The tennis/basketball court needs resurfacing. The Scouts clear invasive plants from around the outside every year. We have a new tennis net.


The baseball field is mowed all summer and used by local teams. During



The Pavillion

Continued on next page

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Hidden Gems, continued

the Guilford Fair it has been the site of a variety of events including: car shows, dog agility contests, cow plop contests, and children's games. The field could benefit from some drainage work, fence repairs, new benches and dugouts.

The Log Cabin has hosted a variety of Scouting programs including regional jamborees and winter overnights with skills training. Other local groups can arrange to reserve the cabin. In 2019, due to previous vandalism, a new gate was installed, doors and windows replaced and secured, smoke and carbon dioxide alarms were mounted. Volunteer workdays are held to help address ongoing maintenance needs.

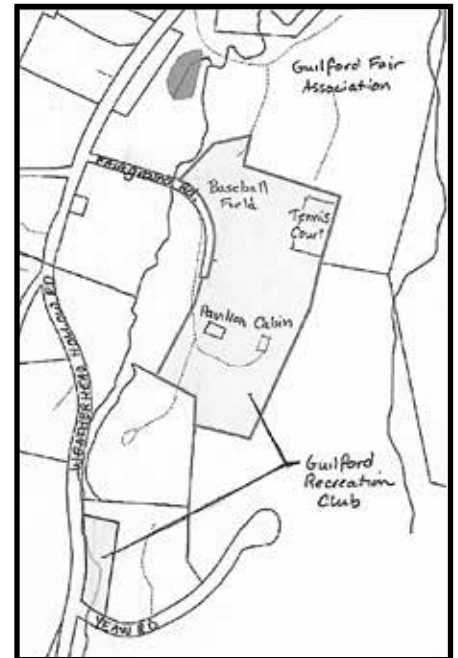
The Pavilion stands by a large maple in a quiet area. It is ideal for small fam-

ily picnics. It could use some clearing and minor repairs, as well as two new picnic tables.

The nature trail loops around the property and has markers identifying plants and trees. It is a lovely place to walk, snowshoe, or ski.

The Rec Club plans to apply for grant money to help with upgrading the tennis court. We hope to create a long-term facility plan in order to maintain this wonderful town treasure and carry on the community spirit with which the club was formed.

We are always looking for additional involvement from others. If you would like to volunteer, join the board, or make a donation, you can contact us by mail at: Guilford Recreation Club PO Box 2679 West Brattleboro VT 05303. You can also find us on Facebook.



Community Value Mapping

BY PLANNING & CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

What do you love about Guilford? What places in town have special value for you and your family? What places would you like your children and grandchildren to enjoy when they grow up? These are the questions explored by Community Values Mapping forums, a way to involve all of us in planning for Guilford's future as expressed in our Town Plan, which guides what our town will look like today and many years from now.

Before the Covid-19 virus shut everything down in March, the Planning and Conservation Commissions planned to offer a series of Community Values Mapping forums, assisted by conservation planners from the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife. At these forums community members work in small groups to locate places on a town map

that answer the question: "What do you love best about Guilford?" These include areas important for scenic beauty, economic value, working lands, recreation, hunting and fishing, historic significance and community resources. The organizers put together all the maps digitally onto a single map that helps a community see the locations that are highly valued by many people. These are important considerations when thinking about how to plan for Guilford's future.

Although we don't expect to hold community meetings in person in the near future, the town is exploring options for carrying forward the work of mapping our values in time to incorporate this information into the next Town Plan. The state has allowed Guilford to temporarily re-adopt our current Town Plan, which was set to expire

Fire Department Statistics

April:

5 fire
8 medical calls,
2 mutual aid

May:

5 fire
4 medical calls,
3 mutual aid

June:

10 fire
6 medical calls
2 mutual aid

this June, so we have more time to write one that truly reflects what we love and value about our community. We hope to have an announcement soon about how and when this will happen.



A Letter from Lise Sparrow

June 29, 2020

Dear Guilford,

By the time this goes to print I will be making some of my last commutes to Guilford.

My car will be shocked in October to not automatically head south from Westminster West! Sunday morning, August 23, I will lead my last official service (online) and that afternoon I will spend time outside at the church saying good-byes in rotations and at safe distance. I could never have imagined that my last months "in Guilford" would be mostly spent in precious virtual connection to your community.

As I enter retirement I will remember so many of you who opened your barns and garages to the summer youth employment program, others who came and peeled apples and potatoes, others who entrusted your loved ones into the church's hands in the best and saddest times and others who found countless ways to keep the church a vital place. You have shown me how much can be done when one stops "working"!

But far beyond what I had known before, Guilford has introduced me to people I never would have met otherwise. Guilford is so full of "essential workers"—doctors, nurses, grocers and teachers, of course—but also truck and school bus drivers and the road crew, landscapers and tree-trimmers, granola makers and cake bakers. Artists who write and dance and paint and weave and sculpt. All right here in Guilford.

With this note I want to thank all of you whom I have known and those whom



Lise Sparrow

Photo courtesy Connie Green

I will never get to know. I thank you for the ways you have both challenged and supported me and the church, whether by worship, well wishes, confronting us with important issues or working together.

I pray the Guilford Community Church will always be that...a place for the whole community...whether it be there for children or for youth, for AA or for exercise, for ATV or Fire District meetings, a place to discuss big issues or for just being the "church" to anyone who drives by or walks in the door.

I leave the church in good hands. There have always been strong lay leaders and that will continue. My successor, Elisa Lucossi, is a skilled, passionate leader who will come with her own perfect preparation. I encourage you to get to know her

and her partner. They will arrive the end of August. And never doubt how much I will miss you all. I truly believe there is no greater privilege than to share the sacred moments of marriage and mourning, baptism and illness with others. I have been blessed beyond what you will ever know by these moments. And we have had some great adventures together—not to mention the fun of envisioning a bright future for Algiers and Guilford Community of our dreams. I will carry so many memories forward. Guilford is amazing place, made so by all of you. I hope and pray to see you when the Pandemic lifts — at a Sugar Supper or maybe, at the 2021 Guilford Fair!

Yours Always,

Rev. Lise Sparrow

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The End of A School Year

BY NANCY DETRA

"This has been a school year unlike any other;" so began the letter that went out to Guilford Central School parents at the end of May. It was an understatement. The school building was closed on March 13th, but classes continued to meet, virtually; students used family computers, or Chromebooks provided by the school. It was indeed a novel approach to primary education, adopted by necessity due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The experiment turned out to be a huge challenge for teachers and specialists, who had to design and redesign on-line lessons as they went, to see what worked best in this very different situation.

"By the end of the school year, we (school staff as well as students and parents) were tired out," said sixth grade teacher Jen Kramer. Out of that exhaustion grew an end-of-the-year school-wide project, dubbed the Front Steps Project, that taught important lessons in research and collaboration, as well

as presentation, with a healthy measure of laughter.

"It took a lot of planning," said preschool teacher Emma Hallowell, to come up with a format that worked for students from pre-K through 6th grade.

The letter continued, "Think of this as a time capsule of sorts – a way that we can document and remember some of the fun we've had in this most unusual spring semester." Families were offered a menu of possible at-home projects, but the letter left the field wide open for students and families to develop their own unique plans.

Projects ranged from making a video of an interview with the family dog, to building a "goofy golf course" in a grandmother's backyard, to figuring out how many laps around the kitchen island it took to travel a mile—on tricycles.

Paige Renaud, a sixth grader, produced a video to convince her parents that she needed to get baby ducks. Her reasons?

"It was mainly that they're so cute," said Paige, but she also assured her mom and dad that she'd spend lots of time with the

ducklings during the quarantine, instead of bugging them.

Once she got her parents on board she and her father designed and built a deluxe duck house, complete with wheels and a push bar, and welcomed six ducklings to make their home there. Paige documented the project with photographs of each step in the construction.

Speaking of the whole three months at home together, Claire Renaud, Paige's mother said, "We're going to be forever changed. I don't think it's negative. We had to slow down... I think this will make them (the students) appreciate each other even more when we can get back together again."

For sixth graders, the end of the semester also marked the end of their career at Guilford School, but without a traditional graduation. How do you properly celebrate when you can't gather in the gym for one last hurrah with speeches, awards, and songs?

Continued on page 13



6th grade teachers and specialists bring their graduating class "together" in front of the school

Haiku Offerings

BY ESTHER FIELDING

A paint box morning
Green and blue, a splash of white
Colors of summer.

Welcome a new day
A gift has been given me
Accept it with grace



An Interview with Jen Kramer

BY SUSAN BONTHRON

Jennifer Kramer has been a middle school and later a sixth grade teacher at Guilford Central School (GCS) for nearly two decades. In her time at the school, Jen was instrumental in continuing the tradition of place-based learning begun by Joe Brooks in the mid-1990s (which, among other achievements, resulted in the ongoing student production of the Guilford Gazette until the Guilford middle school moved to Brattleboro). As of the end of the 2019-2020 school year, Jen is officially retired.

SB: A major focus of your curriculum while teaching at GCS involved place-based learning centered in Guilford. How did that help your students?

JK: I arrived in Guilford in January of 2001, and began team teaching sixth grade with Sue Bos part time. By the end of that year, I had started the Revolutionary War Project with the students. I was already interested in place-based learning from my time at Antioch New England Graduate School, and Guilford School was primed for this kind of learning through the work of Joe Brooks. I realized the town had great resources for a history project like this. We could visit local cemeteries with the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers from Guilford, and research records in

the Town Office going back to the Revolutionary War. The students loved this work. When kids are engaged they naturally work harder, and I set high standards and expectations for the quality of their work.

Another year, the students and I studied the Broad Brook as part of our natural

one year the sixth graders created a presentation about the Guilford slate industry (including its history and geology, its workers, the uses for slate) for the Guilford and Dummerston Historical Societies for their speaker series. The students made a slideshow with PowerPoint—



6th grade teacher Jennifer Kramer walks with students on the Andrew Weeks Trail

science work. I asked the students to use beautiful language to describe what they knew about the brook, and to create their absolute best art in their handmade books. Having a real audience for what they created gave the work importance. For example,

every kid wanted to be part of it. For all these projects, we found something unique about the community, dove deeply into it, and presented what we found to a real audience, which was an im-

Continued on next page



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Jen Kramer Interview, continued

portant motivator for the students to do their best work.

SB: What are you most proud of accomplishing during your time at Guilford School?

JK: What I cherished the most was my relationships with students and their families. The kind of work we did would not have been possible without the collaboration of the students' families and the town. My heart lifts when I run into one of my former students.

SB: What do you hope your legacy at GCS will be?

JK: I hope place-based learning will continue. When we had to change to distance learning this year because of

the pandemic, the students had to spend so much time inside in front of computers. The teachers got together and started the "Guilford Front Steps Project". We decided to give the kids multiple options for an independent project they could do at home, such as creating a family museum, or nature drawing, or videoing a "Top Chef" interview revolving around a favorite family recipe. Almost every teacher and staff person at the school came up with ideas for options. Eventually we chose 16 different independent learning project ideas for students pre-K through sixth grade. We made sure the projects were scaffolded to give the students a structure to follow, and we checked in on Zoom [an inter-

net-based method of meeting "face-to-face" online—ed.] There was one menu of choices for students pre-K through third grades, and another for grades four through six. One of them was to research and try to find all the local one-room schoolhouses! The students did great work. It was a good way to end the year.

Guilford will miss Jen Kramer. Fifth grade teacher Amy Skolnick, who worked with Jen on the Holiday Fair and the Guilford Front Steps Project, will teach 6th grade next year, and these two projects will continue—a hopeful sign that place-based learning will go on at GCS.

End of a School Year, continued

"We put a lot of thought into it," said Jen Kramer. "We wanted to make it special." On June 12th a parade of teachers and staff traveled in cars along Guilford's roads to visit and honor each of the thirteen students at their homes, bringing each a diploma, a personal road sign (see picture), some words of praise, and a cupcake from the Top Tier Bakery.

"It ended up being really sweet," said Claire, noting in amusement that the staff cars nearly blocked the road in front of their house.

But possibly the biggest thrill for all the students came when families drove to school earlier that day. By tradition, teachers, staff and principal John Gagnon usually line up along the road in front of the building and cheer the departing busloads of children as they circle around the driveway. This year the staff again stood outside the school but families circled in their cars, with many delighted faces leaning "right out the windows," noted kindergarten teacher Karen Duggan. Students, parents and staff cheered for each other and for the end of the year, some sprayed the teachers with squirt guns, and some teachers reciprocated. The Renauds drove around the circle twice so that Paige could squirt Mr. G. and Mrs. Kramer with a super soaker from the family car.

"For a sixth grader it just doesn't get much better than that!" said her mother.



Guilford School End-Sixth grader Paige Renaud and her father try out the duck house they built for the Front Steps Project

Historic Roadside Markers in Guilford

BY THE GUILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The following historic markers were found along Guilford roads during GCC's 2019/2020 EAB Inventory. Perhaps you and your family would like to follow "a treasure hunt" for these markers as a summer activity. The latest (2016) edition of the Guilford Town Map can be seen on and downloaded from the town website at guilfordvt.com/documents-and-maps/maps/ (click on Road Map 2016); copies are also available at the Guilford Library.

1. Slate marker near 2282 Stage Road (slate)



Erected in memory of
Mrs. Sarah Cutting: wife
of Capt. Jonah Cutting
who was kild at this place
by the fall from a horse

May 19th 1816 Aged 48 Years
Make the extended skies your tomb
Let stars record your worth
Yet know vain mortals all must die
As nature's sickliest birth.

Would bounteous heav'n indulge
my pray'r
I frame a nobler choice
Nor living wish the pompous pile
Nor dead regret the loss.

In thy fair book of life divine
My God inscribe my name
There let it fill some humble place
Beneath the slaughter'd Lamb.

Ty saints while ages roll away
In endless fame survive
Their glories o'er the wrongs of time
Greatly triumphant live.

2. Natural stone marker near 672 Hale Road

A coffin is carved in the upper right of this natural stone. Another figure to the left is hard to decipher, perhaps a death's head or an urn. The inscription is carved to fit the stone's irregular shape and reads:

AD
1812
IN MEMO
RY OF MR
JOHN BOL
STER WHO
DIED 30 HO
URS AFTER
THROWN
FROM HIS
HORSE NE
AR THIS
PLACE ON
JUN
E 23 1810



3. Stone Marker on Stony Hill Road (on Class 4 section of road, just north of the stream that crosses the road where the bridge is out) This stone marks the site where Marian Gotier Baker was killed when she fell off her horse. She is buried

in Baker Cemetery with husband David (who lived another 22 years). South Stony Hill Road was a main road back in the 1800s.



D.BAKER
WIFE WAS
INSTANTLY
KILLED
JULY 2 1859

Continued on next page

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Roadside Markers, continued

4. Wooden Marker near 413 Sweet Pond Road



This Town Pound is described in *The Official History of Guilford, Vermont* (pp. 144-5) as an animal pound for cows, sheep, horses, or other livestock that were loose. Perhaps it was also used for dogs if they were caught chasing livestock, but it is not noted as such in the description. The high stone walls of the pound are still visible on the property. The hand-stenciled marker reads:

TOWN POUND

5. Granite Marker at VT/MA State Line on River Road (3.5 miles south of Green River Covered Bridge) This granite marker was placed during an 1896 survey of the VT-MA boundary. It is one of many stones and monuments located in the United States whose position was established by surveying. Another one can be found in the southwest corner of Guilford near Corner Road. A line called an azimuth is carved into the top of these markers to indicate the direction of the state line boundary. Text on the north and south sides of the stone read as follows. The "1975" on the north side is

less deeply cut and presumably scratched in by an unwelcome visitor.



VT.

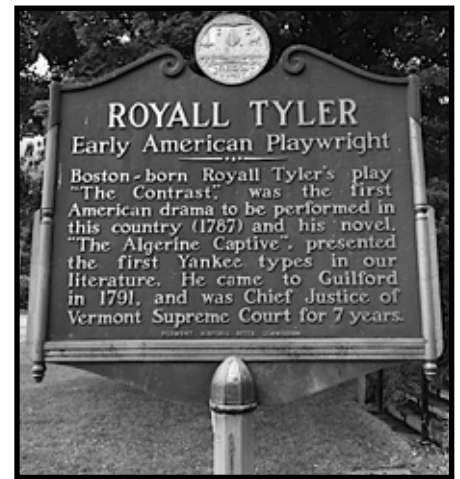
1896

MASS.

1975

1896

6. State Marker on Guilford Center Road (in front of Guilford Historical Society) Made of cast-aluminum and crested with the gold state seal, this is one of over 200 roadside markers placed throughout Vermont by the Division for Historic Preservation to mark people, events, and places of regional, statewide, or national significance.



ROYALL TYLER
Early American Playwright

Boston-born Royall Tyler's play "The Contrast," was the first American Drama to be performed in this country (1787) and his novel, "The Algerine Captive", presented the first Yankee types in our literature. He came to Guilford in 1791, and was Chief Justice of Vermont Supreme Court for 7 years.

VERMONT HISTORIC SITES
COMMISSION

Continued on page 16

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Historic Markers, continued

Another state roadside marker can be found on Route 5 in Guilford at the state line. It reads, "*On this former wilderness trail to Canada, the pioneers built old Fort Dummer in 1724 below Brattleboro, then the frontiers most advanced outpost. Guilford, then the largest town in Vermont, was the scene of bitter strife between the Yorkers and the Green Mountain Boys led by Ethan Allen.*"

7. Marker on Guilford Center Road (in front of Meetinghouse)

Hosea Ballou's birthplace was a farm on Brook Road (now Hale Road) near Governor's Mountain that belonged to his grandparents.



HOSEA BALLOU, II
BORN IN GUILFORD, VERMONT
FIRST PRESIDENT
TUFTS COLLEGE
OVERSEER
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
PIONEER IN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
AUTHOR, SCHOLAR, TEACHER
1796-1861

8. Marker on Guilford Center Road (between Meetinghouse and Library)



Another marker, located between the Guilford Center Meeting House and the Guilford Free Library, commemorates 68 Guilford citizens who served in World War II. A bronze plaque mounted on a large-boulder reads:

GUILFORD ROLL OF HONOR
PROUDLY WE PAY TRIBUTE TO
THOSE FROM OUR TOWN
WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO
THE COLORS IN WORLD WAR II

This is followed by the 68 names. Five of these are women and three others have asterisks next to their names indicating that they died in service. The full list, with many familiar Guilford names, can be found on pp. 232 of *The Official History of Guilford, Vermont*.



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I'm Tired

ROHAN JOSIAH PROVIDENCE

Rohan Josiah Providence, 30, grew up in Guilford and attended school here. His father was born in St. Vincent. His mother's family, the Houghtons, have been in Guilford since 1805. He works for Families First, in Brattleboro.

I'm tired.
I'm tired of being called a nigger.
I'm tired of being told to go back to Africa
while walking down the street.
I'm tired of being spit on.
I'm tired of thinking that people are my friends,
and I turn around and they are in racist hate groups
(nigger hanging redneck association).
I'm tired of walking down the street, have people look at me,
and cross the street in fear or hate.
I'm tired of walking with a grin plastered on my face
and whistling nonsense tunes
to make strangers around me feel less threatened by my
presence.
I'm tired of being told black people are lazy, but I'm an
exception.
I'm tired of feeling genuine fear when I get pulled over,
not knowing if this is it.
I'm tired of pretending that I'm in a good mood all the time,
because if I'm not, I become a super predator.
of all the things I'm tired of, I still grew up relatively safe.
I can only imagine if my life was a little bit different,

instead of being tired, I would be full of rage.
if my brother was killed by a cop because of a fake bill?
I would rage. I wouldn't be able to just sit there
and have that fake smile on my face. not anymore.
everything around me would remind me they were gone.
I wouldn't think of the repercussions of my actions,
because the people who did this didn't have to care about theirs.
some people are upset with the riots and the looting.
I believe that if there are people who are looting
who are actually raging over the deaths of black men,
it's because of rage of injustice.
I'm trying to find the right way of explaining this and I can't.
The best analogy I can come up with is a horror movie.
We all say 'why would that person do something so obviously
dumb?'
The answer is fear. Their fear is guiding them in such a powerful
way,
that nothing else matters. We are still in complete control of
ourselves
while watching, being safe at home. But when home's not safe,
and the people who are supposed to protect you, are killing you?
Rage is all there is. Lord, I'm just so tired.

Guilford Music Festival Cancelled

BY JENNIFER AMBLER

Friends of Music at Guilford regrettably announces the cancellation of its annual Labor Day Weekend Festival due to the COVID pandemic.

Traditionally, the two-concert event includes a Saturday evening organ

program, and a Sunday afternoon lawn concert at the Organ Barn in Guilford, featuring the Guilford Festival Orchestra.

We expect to return to the Labor Day Weekend Festival in 2021. We hope you'll join us then!



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Message from our State Representative

2020 will go into the books as a memorable year. This pandemic has disrupted every aspect of our lives, including the usual rhythm of the Vermont Assembly. We have seen how our collective actions of staying at home, social distancing, and wearing masks in public have helped to flatten the curve in Vermont. We continue to have a shared social responsibility to protect our neighbors and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In mid-March, the Vermont Assembly pivoted from working under the golden dome to working remotely from our living rooms and home offices over zoom for an extended session. We worked through the end of June and across party lines to advance critical legislation and allocate \$1 billion in relief funds to help Vermonters through and beyond this crisis. We will return in August when we will have more information about the State's fiscal outlook to complete our work on the FY21 budget and we can continue to address the health and economic needs of Vermonters.

It has truly been an honor to represent the people of Guilford in the Vermont House of Representatives. I ran for office because I care deeply about the future of our small rural communities. As a first-term legislator, I have been working on the issues that matter to my constituents through active participation in the Climate Solutions Caucus, the Rural Economic Development Working Group, the Women's Caucus, and the Social Equity Caucus. I co-sponsored legislation to ex-

pand rural broadband, address climate change, and increase investments in affordable childcare and housing. I successfully advocated to appropriate \$3.5



*Representative Sara Coffey
at the Statehouse*

million of Corona Relief Funds to the Working Lands Enterprise Program and \$5 million for the creative economy.

As a member of the Vermont Assembly, I also feel a deep responsibility to speak up and stand against hatred and racial injustice and to work for equity. During this pandemic we have seen protests around the country and across our state calling for change. In an unexpected


way, COVID-19 has provided the time and space for people to become more aware of our society's injustices and come together to call for action, thus paving the way for some real transformative change. This gives me great hope.

Achieving equity in our society across race, class, and gender isn't the work of only a few leaders in the Legislature; this is all of our work. I hope that you will join me in this work by learning and engaging in this conversation with your neighbors, contacting your elected leaders at every level, continuing with collective action, and raising your voice. It's going to take hard work from all of us. We must collectively push forward to make these essential changes so Vermont is a state where all of us can thrive, not just the select few.

During the second half of our summer recess, I am looking forward to connecting with neighbors, hosting some community conversations, and getting in a swim at Sweet Pond and Green River. Please know that I am available to answer questions, help you connect with resources, and listen to your priorities. It's an honor to represent Guilford and Vernon in the Vermont House. With your support I hope to be able to continue this work and carry your voice to Montpelier.

Please stay in touch, stay safe and enjoy the summer!

Sara Coffey
State Representative for Guilford & Vernon
e-mail: SCoffey@leg.state.vt.us



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Soccer Camp Photos

Soccer at the Library began 4 weeks of camp at the Guilford Free Library. Peter Welch, Amit Sharma, and Erin Tkaczyk all donated their time to provide a very energetic week for ten 5-8 graders.



Noodles



Weeks trail walk



Soccer

Community Calendar

Every Tuesday

• 11 AM ZOOM STORYTIME-

Library-Cathi Wilken or Laura Lawson Tucker presents a program of songs, fingerplays, books and activities for babies, toddlers and older siblings (free) Info: 257-4603 Email staff@guilfordfreelibraryvt.org to request the zoom link.

Every second Tuesday of the month

• 9 AM GAZETTE MEETING

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3rd Wednesday of the month.

• 6:30 PM TALK ABOUT

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This newspaper is for you! We (the community volunteers) put together this newspaper for the community. We welcome your comments and questions. We hope that the Gazette provides a way for people in the community to communicate about local interests and goings on. Anyone can submit an article or letter to the editor--just put it in the Gazette Box at the library or the school, or mail it to The Guilford Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301.

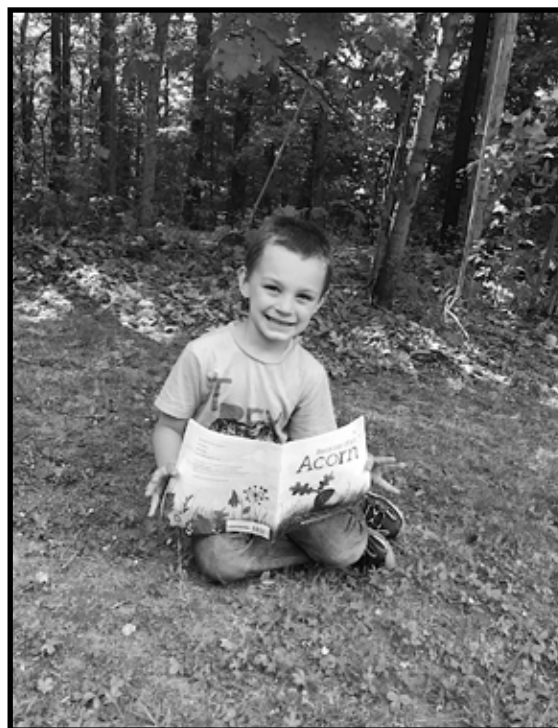
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*Andres Mangum, entering grade 1 at
Guilford Central School with some reading*

